

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**April 15, 2013**

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## **First Lady Sally Ganem honors Lincoln volunteers**

(Lincoln, Neb.) Nebraska's First Lady Sally Ganem presented community service awards to Jan Kaufman (Volunteer of the Year), F Street Community Center (Community Partnership in Education), and Wayne Svoboda (Professional Commitment to Service) on April 12, 2013 during the annual First Lady's Outstanding Community Service Awards luncheon ceremony at the Kearney Country Club, Kearney.

Col. Jan Kaufman has spent the last two decades playing secret elf for tens of thousands of Lancaster County children from low-income families. In 1991, she volunteered to start a fundraising auction for Santa Cop, a philanthropy project of the Lincoln Police Union charities. Santa Cop provides toys every Christmas for thousands of children living in poverty in Lancaster County. Jan has applied her professional auctioneering skills in asking businesses and individuals for donations of products and services to make each year's auction a success.

For the last several years, clients at the Center for People in Need have benefitted from Jan's boundless heart. The Center gives gifts to 8,000-10,000 children from low-income families each year at its Toyland for Kids Special Event.

Although illness forced a stop to her Santa Cop participation after the 2011 auction, Jan still raised over \$2,000 on her own in 2012 to buy more toys.

F Street Community Center is successful because of the dedication of center directors Dorothy Skorupa, Jerry Taylor and Rick Lingard. They are committed to creating a safe, fun, education and recreation-based environment where children, adults and senior citizens come together.

Through participation with AmeriCorps members and a strong sense of teamwork the Center Directors have been able to increase the education, fitness, and nutrition programs available for at-risk youth in the community. These programs help to encourage youth to stay focused, healthy and in school. Over the years, AmeriCorps members under their guidance have become a valuable resource for providing fundamental active living and youth development.

Through partnerships with other community organizations F Street seeks to strengthen services for youth and impress the importance of education for their future. Dorothy, Rick and Jerry treat everyone with respect as they walk through the door to ensure their needs are being met.

Wayne Svoboda is the former Executive Director of Volunteer Partners, Lincoln, where he served since its inception in 2002. Under his 10-year leadership, Volunteer Partners has thrived in carrying out its mission to: "Promote and support volunteerism to connect volunteers with nonprofit agencies in Lincoln, Lancaster County and Nebraska. As the agency's lone full-time employee, Wayne successfully implemented specialty programs that served the community in a unique way and focused on youth, emergency needs, corporate volunteers, business professionals, board diversity and training.

Through Wayne's leadership, Volunteer Partners annually recognizes volunteers from local nonprofit agencies in the community during National Volunteer Week at a recognition celebration. This celebration recognizes over 150 nonprofit agencies who in 2011 reported over 184,000 volunteers serving Lincoln and Lancaster County with more than 3.6 million hours of service to these agencies. Wayne has been a true ambassador of community service to the Lincoln community.

For more information about the First Lady's Outstanding Community Service Awards, visit ServeNebraska at, [www.serve.nebraska.gov](http://www.serve.nebraska.gov) or contact Kimberle Hall at 402-471-6228 or 800-291-8911.

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